



NORTH CAROLINA

Department of Transportation



Getting a Head Start on Your NEPA/SEPA Document

March 27, 2019



NORTH CAROLINA

Department of Transportation



Express Design Evaluation & Project Scoping

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March 2019

Agenda

- Overview
- Express Design Evaluation
- Project Scoping
- Questions

NCDOT Feasibility Studies Unit /
Central Corridor Development Unit
Express Design Evaluation &
Project Scoping Process
Guidance

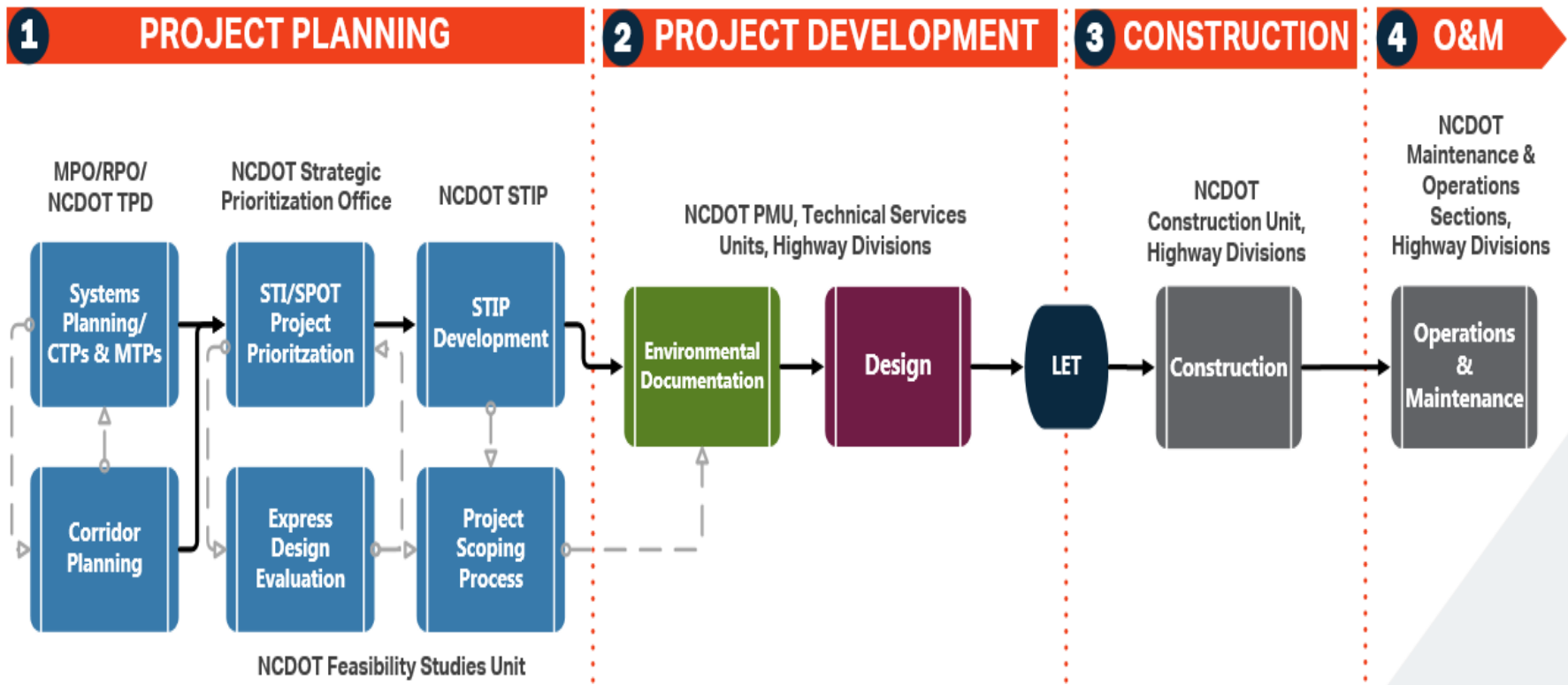
Date:
January 18, 2019

Prepared for:
NCDOT

Prepared by:
AECOM




Overview

NCDOT Existing Process



Overview

What the process IS:

-  Initial step in the planning and design process for a candidate project
-  Describes the project, estimates preliminary costs, and identifies any potential problems
-  Investigates conceptual design option(s) and prepares costs needed for the prioritization process (SPOT)

AN alternative, not THE alternative

Overview

What the process is NOT:



Detailed engineering



In-depth data collection or field studies



NEPA/SEPA compliance documentation

DISCLAIMER:

The Project Scoping Process is NOT intended to satisfy NEPA/SEPA requirements for a project, not be an exhaustive investigation of design and environmental issues. Appropriate NEPA/SEPA documentation must be completed during the project development phase of a project before the project will be approved for right of way acquisition or construction.

Overview

Express Design Evaluation

- Project Initiation
- Conceptual Designs & Quantities
- Cost Estimates

Express Design
Submittal

SPOT

Project Scoping

- Stakeholder Coordination
- Environmental Screening
- Technical Report

Project Scoping
Report

Express Design Evaluation

Express Design Evaluation

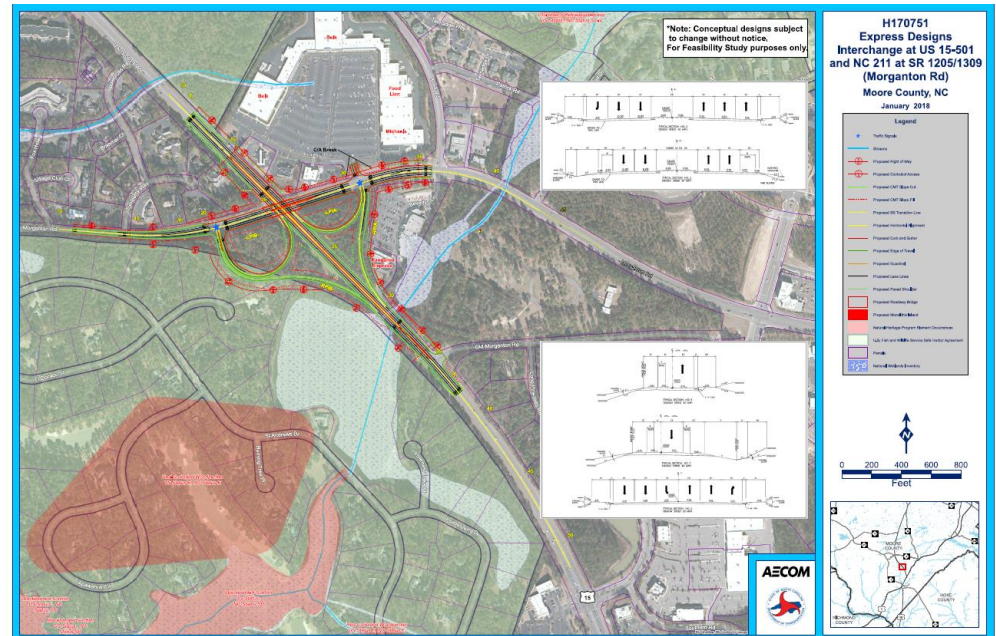
- Project Initiation
- Conceptual Designs & Quantities
- Cost Estimates

**Express Design
Submittal**

Project Initiation

- Data Collection & Environmental Features Map
- Preliminary Coordination with Key Stakeholders
 - Division and MPO/RPO
 - NCDOT-PMU & EPU
 - Others NCDOT Units as appropriate

- Based on input from preliminary coordination, develop conceptual design option(s)
 - Horizontal Design
 - Vertical Design
 - Slope Stakes
 - Right of Way
 - Maintenance of Traffic



Mapping Limits

- Mapping Limits
 - Develop initial mapping limits based on the express design concept

	Mapping Limits	Mapping Products
Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25'-50' outside outer limits of existing/proposed Right of Way• 200' beyond proposed project termini	1"=50' Final Surveys
Interchange Projects Widening Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100' outside outer limits of proposed/existing Right of Way• 500' beyond proposed project termini	1"=50' Shell Plan Sheets
New Locations Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500' outside outer limits of existing/proposed Right of Way for all options• 1000' beyond proposed project termini	1"=100' Topographic Mapping (with multiple options) or 1"=50' Shell Plan Sheets (with selected corridor)

Cost Estimates

- Construction, Utilities, & ITS
- Right of Way
- Other major cost items

Express Design Evaluation

- Express Design Evaluation deliverables:
 - Summary – 1-page summary with information for decision-making and record of findings
 - Conceptual design(s) on environmental features mapping
 - Cost estimates
 - Conceptual maintenance of traffic narrative
 - Initial mapping limit CADD file
 - Communication log and preliminary stakeholder coordination documentation



Project Scoping Site

(NCDOT Connect Scoping Team Site)

H090048 R-0616: PROPOSED WILKESBORO-NORTH WILKESBORO BYPASS - 2017-08-16_15-18-57.PDF

EDIT

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Scoping Topic

Created at 3/14/2018 3:21
Hawes, Lynnise M
Last modified at 3/14/2018
Hawes, Lynnise M

1_Preliminary Design
2_Environmental Documents
3_Traffic Forecast
4_Final Plans
5_Right of Way Estimate Documentation
6_Utility Estimate Documentation
7_Construction Estimate Documentation
8_Microstation Files
9_Final Cost Estimates Folder
10_Scoping Report

describes.

Cancel

SPOT Evaluation

- Ideally an **Express Design Evaluation** has been completed
- The project may now be entered into the SPOT process for prioritization and possible inclusion in the STIP
- If the project scores well, and is funded into the STIP, the project will move into **Project Scoping**

Project Scoping

Project Scoping

- Stakeholder Coordination
- Environmental Screening
- Technical Report

Project Scoping
Report

Environmental Screening

- Project Scoping Screening Checklist
 - Complete the Screening Checklist using best available data

PROJECT SCOPING SCREENING CHECKLIST			
SPT-ID: 0000	FACILITY: 000000	DIVISION: 000	FIRM: 000000
INSTRUCTIONS: The following questions are based on the CE Checklists for TYPE I and II projects. Answer each question in the space provided based on available data. Include qualitative discussion as appropriate.			
1a	<p>Could the project require formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)?</p> <p>A Natural Resources Technical Report (NTRT) must be prepared during project development before this question can be fully answered. Review the current USFWS Endangered and Threatened Species and Species of Concern by County for North Carolina and note species or designated critical habitat listed in the county(s).</p> <p>000000</p>		
2a	<p>Could the project result in impacts subject to the conditions of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)?</p> <p>A NTRT must be prepared during project development before this question can be fully answered. Review the current USFWS Endangered and Threatened Species and Species of Concern by County for North Carolina and note if BGEPA species are listed in the county(s).</p> <p>000000</p>		
3a	<p>Could the project generate substantial controversy or public opposition, for any reason, following appropriate public involvement?</p> <p>Review the appropriate CTP for documentation of public involvement in the CTP development and any comments related to the project.</p> <p>000000</p>		
4a	<p>Could the project cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts relative to low-income and/or minority populations?</p> <p>This question will require additional evaluation during project development. Using the NCDOT Demographic Tool, note the total population, as well as minority and low-income populations for the county and each Census Block Group in which the project is located. Also note any observations based on review of aerial photography.</p> <p>000000</p>		
5a	<p>Would the project involve a residential or commercial displacement, or a substantial amount of right-of-way acquisition?</p> <p>Provide a count of potential residential and commercial displacements.</p> <p>000000</p>		
6a	<p>Would the project require an individual Section 4(f) approval?</p> <p>This question will require additional evaluation during project development. At this time, note the presence of properties that may be subject to Section 4(f), including historic resources, parks, and wildlife/waterfowl refuges. Note those within the proposed right-of-way, as well as within 1,000' of the project.</p> <p>000000</p>		
7a	<p>Could the project include adverse effects that cannot be resolved with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or have an adverse effect on a National Historic Landmark (NHL)?</p> <p>This question will require additional evaluation during project development. Review NC State Historic Preservation Office GIS data and note the presence of historic properties within the proposed right-of-way, as well as within 1,000' of the project. Note: this site does not include archaeological resources.</p> <p>000000</p>		
8a	<p>Could the project result in a finding of "may affect not likely to adversely affect" for listed species, or designated critical</p>		

Technical Report

Technical Report Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION

General Description

Background

IV. DESIGN OPTION IMPACTS AND COSTS

Impacts

Costs

II. PRELIMINARY PURPOSE & NEED

Previous Studies

Adjacent Projects

Crash Analysis

V. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Land Use

Community Resources

Cultural Resources

III. EXPRESS DESIGN EVALUATION

Design Options

Other Options Considered

Traffic Volumes

Maintenance of Traffic

Natural Environment

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

VII. REFERENCES

FIGURES

Project Scoping Summary

- Project Scoping Summary
 - a one-page summary including general project information
 - Recommended document type

PROJECT SCOPING SUMMARY			
SPOT ID:	FACILITY:	DIVISION:	FIRM:
INSERT VICINITY MAP	EXISTING FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS: Existing No. of Lanes: Existing Median: Yes/No Existing control of access: <input type="checkbox"/> No Control <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Control <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Control <input type="checkbox"/> Full Control ADT: Structures: <input type="checkbox"/> Culvert(s) Number, Size(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge(s) Number, Size(s)	PROPOSED FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS: Proposed No. of Lanes: Addition of Median(s): Yes/No Proposed control of access: <input type="checkbox"/> No Control <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Control <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Control <input type="checkbox"/> Full Control ADT: Structures: <input type="checkbox"/> Culvert(s) Number, Size(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge(s) Number, Size(s)	
	PROJECT DESCRIPTION: <i>(Include project scope and location, including Municipality and County. Refer to the attached project location map and photos.)</i>		
PRELIMINARY PURPOSE AND NEED: <i>Is there preliminary information on the purpose and need for the project included in a CTP, LRTP, or other study? If yes, summarize.</i>			
COST ESTIMATES: Construction: Right of Way: Utilities: ITS:			
MAPPING PRODUCT RECOMMENDATION: <i>Include recommendation of mapping product type based on express design evaluation summary</i>			
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: <i>Note recommended document type and summarize findings from Screening Checklist.</i>			

Project Scoping Report

- Compile the Project Scoping Report:
 - Project Scoping Summary
 - Project Scoping Technical Report
 - Project Scoping Screening Checklist
 - Stakeholder comments and coordination documentation
 - Express Design Evaluation Submittal
 - Traffic Forecast Request
- Coordinate with ATLAS and STIP staff



Next Steps

- Determine if other requests should be submitted
 - Pro-Active Traffic Forecast and/or Analysis
 - Preliminary hydraulics
 - Others as needed
- NOTE: We anticipate a major revision to our guidelines this year to incorporate ATLAS into the process.

Questions?

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NORTH CAROLINA

Department of Transportation



Environmental Policy Unit Lessons Learned

Project Funding and Environmental Documentation

Derrick Weaver

2nd Annual Preconstruction Conference – March 28, 2019

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation

PROJECT SCOPING REPORTS

- Produced by Feasibility Studies Unit
 - Environmental Documentation Type
 - State or Federally funded guidance

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation



YOUR BASIC FACTS

- State Fund Preliminary Engineering
- Most projects processed as CE/MCDC

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation

DID YOU KNOW



- Documentation Type Not Required Decision at Project Initiation
- Invite FHWA to Project Initiation All Projects

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation



YOUR FIRST STEPS

- Know your Project Before you Decide
 - CE/MCDC
 - EA/EIS
- Determine Lead Federal Agency

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation

CHANGING YOUR MIND

- MCDC to CE
- State EA or FONSI to Federal EA or FONSI
- State EIS to Federal EIS



Project Funding & Environmental Documentation



THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

- Federal Documentation on State Project
 - No Problem
- State Documentation on Federal Project
 - Big Problem

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation



FEDERAL FUNDS FOR YOU

- Consider Federal Documentation when...
 - Tribal Consultation
 - Endangered Species Consultation
 - Coast Guard Involvement
 - Interstate Project
 - MPO has DA funds to use on project
 - Project may be consider for Federal Grant or Funding

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation

STATE FUNDS FOR YOU



- Consider State Documentation when...
 - Public Interest not to limit alternatives

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation



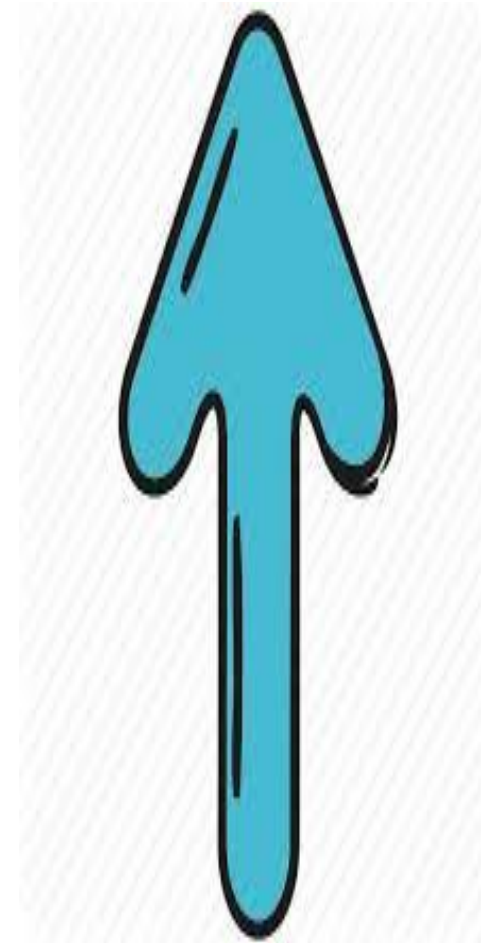
YOUR FUNDING BASICS

- Projects Funded State & Federal Funds
- Interstates use most of the Federal Funds
- STIP Initially Sets Programs Funds

Project Funding & Environmental Documentation

HOW DO YOU PROCEED

- Listen to STIP folks
- Guidance for new start projects
- Underway, Continue with MCDC
- Ask EPU Staff
- Coordinate with relevant staff



Project Funding & Environmental Documentation

YOUR TAKE AWAYS



- Do CE's as Rule of Thumb
- Continue to use Type III CE checklist as a screening tool
- Ask FHWA to be the Lead Federal Agency
- Preliminary Engineering State Funded